Supplement to the Bombay Gazette.

WEDNESDAY, 4TH JANUARY 1826.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FRIDAY, JUNE 3.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.

he house having resolved itself into a com-
ee of supply,

r. HERRIES moved a grant of 30,000l., to
e good the damages and dilapidations
ed by a storm to the cob and harbour of
e-Regis.

r. HUME strongly objected to the applica-
of so much public money to the repair of
s which the most qualified judges on that
t had declared not to be worthy of repair-
; and he proceeded to show, that since the
r 1634, while other harbour had generally
their own expenses by their harbour and
dues, there had been appropriated to this,
,000l. of the public money. The harbour
so small that it would admit vessels of a
onnage only, and very few of those
t a time. By returns in his possession, it
that in 1822 there were entered 22,000
shipping. Of the number of vessels fur-
this amount of tonnage, 38 only were of
00 tons; and no less than 543 were
00 tons each; being of 14, 15, and 16
rden. He was not prepared absolutely
se the vote; but unless it could be now
that it was no waste of the public trea-
e should wish the matter to go to a com-
for further inquiry. (Hear.) Naval men
hom he had conversed, were of opinion
e works were quite useles, or at any rate
rth any thing like this outlay, and view-
whole matter in the light of a job.

CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said,
rbour of Lyme was the only one which
d a shelter to ships between Portsmouth.
ne acquainted with the natureof that
must be aware of the importance of this
o the small shipping. It had been so con-
d for many centuries; and even in the
ear, and in the two preceding, an average
vessels in each year had availed them-
s of the shelter of the harbour, and had
saved from the trees of weather in conse-
ce. The people of Lyme were willing to
6,000l., in addition to the tolls on the
ls frequenting the port, to defray the ex-
es of the repairs now called for. The press-
necessity of those repairs being imme-
ly done would preclude the inquiry re-
nended by the hon. gentlemen, because,
ss they were effected without delay, the
e ofthe works as they now existed would
vept into the sea. Looking at it, therefore,
on public grounds, (for he had nothing
with Lyme), he thought the vote ought
agreed on.

r. BARING said, that in the course of an
y before a committee of the house res-
ng the Western ship canal, he had heard
vidence of many persons intimately ac-
ted with the port of Lyme, and he was
if the right hon. gentleman had also heard
vidence, he would be convinced of the
ediency of granting another shilling to-
the keeping up that port.

er a few words from the CHANCELLOR of
YCHEQUER, Mr. BERNAL, and Sir I. COF-

HERRIES said, that the hon. member for
rose (Mr. Hume) had made a mistake in
culation of the expense, which he had stated at 106,000l., and which, in fact, only amounted to 67,000l. This error of 39,000l. would prove to the committee with how little consideration this part of the hon. gentleman's statement had been made.

Mr. HUME said, that the grounds upon which he had objected to this grant remained unchanged by what the hon. gentleman had said. Granting that the expense was only to be 67,000l., still it was too much of the public money to be thrown away.

Mr. B. COOPER said, that his life had been preserved by the shelter which this port afforded to him and his family in a severe storm, and that but for such shelter he should not now have had the honour of addressing the house. He would, for this reason, support the vote.

M. CROKER had some doubt whether the question could be put in the shape proposed by the hon. member for Montrose, and he wished for the opinion of the house on this point of form.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER thought it would be quite unprecedented in a committee of supply to move a resolution like that of the hon. member.

Mr. HUME could not see any objection to his motion, but as he could attain the same object by other means which could not be objected to he would move that the Chairman report progress; and if he should not succeed in that motion, he might afterwards propose another.

The house then divided on Mr. Hume's motion, when the number were—

For the motion, 15 | Against it, 66 | Majority against it, 51.

The original resolution was then agreed to.

On the vote for 200,000l. for compensating certain inhabitants of the United States of America for the loss they had suffered in consequence of the capture of slaves by the British army.

Mr. BERNAL addressed a few words to the right hon. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, but in so low a tone of voice that it was impossible to catch their exact import.

Mr. CANNING said, in reply to the hon. member, that this vote was for making compensation to the proprietors of certain slaves in America. The principle of that compensation had been agreed to by the convention of 1818, and differences having afterwards arisen, it had been agreed to refer their decision to a third party. This had been done, and commissioners were in consequence appointed to ascertain the amount of the loss sustained by such proprietors. They had already estimated it at 200,000l., the amount of the present vote, which however would probably not quite cover the whole sum of compensation to be made. With respect to the slaves, he could not inform the hon. gent. what had become of them. It could obviously never have been in the contemplattion of this Government, or of the captors, to restore the persons of the slaves to their former owners; and for this reason it was, that they were made the object of a pecuniary compensation.—The vote was then agreed to.

The house resumed, and the report was ordered to be received on Monday next.

MAURITIUS TRADE BILL.

Mr. W. HORTON moved the second reading of the above bill.

Mr. BERNAL observed, that some misconception had gone forth with respect to the nature of this measure. This surprised him, as the nature of the case was so extremely simple. It was proposed to place the Mauritius sugar on the same footing with sugar the growth of the West India colonies of this country. It was contended that this measure would not injure the West India planter—first because the distance of the West Indies from this country was so much less than that of the Mauritius; and next, because the quantity of sugar grown in the latter colony was so inconsiderable. From both these circumstances, it was inferred that the introduction of Mauritius sugar, which must arrive tardily, and in small quantities, could not affect the West India planter. But he wished to hear some better arguments in favour of a departure from the present system. He would remind the house, that it appeared from the papers laid on the table, that though at this moment the inhabitants of the Mauritius did not carry on an illicit trade in slaves, yet that they had done so up to the year 1821. Up to that period, it was notorious that slaves were illegally imported into the Isle of France. Now, this being an admitted fact, he could see no reason for granting the benefit at present proposed to those who, long after the legislature had prohibited the traffic, thought proper to indulge in it. Such a measure was very hard towards the colonists of the West India islands, who had done their utmost to discourage the slave-trade, and who had appeared most anxious to cultivate their estates by the labour of Creole slaves. On the contrary, the inhabitants and planters of the Mauritius had for 10 or 12 years indulged in a trade which they well knew was contrary to law. It was almost unnecessary to state to gentlemen understanding the history of the Mauritius, that there were a number of rocky islands, lying east of the Isle of France, called the Sechelles, which were most favourable to the carrying on of this forbidden traffic. The consequence was, that an armed vessel was always cruising in the straits of the Sechelles, in order to prevent the importation of slaves into the colony. T
cumstance proved their anxiety to pr
this trade; and it formed a reason for not
ing them the boon which would be confe
passing this bill. Another reason for no
ing those persons as they treated the c
of the West India islands was, that the
being considered as individuals coming
the protection of the East India Com
charter, had enjoyed all the benefits of
port for four or five years. But they were not content with that; and they turned round to Government and said, "We wish ourselves to be placed on a footing with the West-India islands." But the situation of the Mauritius was entirely different from that of the West-India islands. There the slave-trade had long been suspended; but the islands of Bourbon and of France had, up to a comparatively late period, carried on a considerable traffic in slaves, under different flags; and, even now, the contiguity of the Sechelles rendered it easy to introduce slaves into the Isle of Bourbon, and from thence into the other islands. There was a very great oversight in this bill—because, though it purported to exclude from its operation the sugars of India, of China, and of Bourbon, yet it would be very easy to evade the intention of the legislature. [Mr. W. Horton intimated that this objection had been effectually removed.] He was glad to hear this statement; for without a very strict provision

against the introduction of the sugars he had mentioned, the effects would be most injurious to the West India planter. He must, however, say that he could not conceive why sugars should be suffered to come from the Mauritius on the same footing as sugars imported from Barbadoes, Grenada, &c., when East India sugars generally were prohibited. These were points which called for the serious attention of the house; and he called on the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Horton) to explain on what ground it was that he introduced this measure.

Mr. W. Horton said, that at the time of the capture of this island, it was stipulated that it should be placed on the same footing with the other colonies of Great Britain; and the present measure would have no other effect but that of fulfilling that stipulation. The circumstance of the Mauritius being within the limits of the East India Company's charter, and therefore rendering the sugar manufactured there liable to the same rate of duty that was payable on East India sugar, was merely an accident, of which he conceived advantage ought not to be taken, especially when it was considered that those limits extended to the Straits of Magellan. As to the alleged inconsistency of the inhabitants having at one time claimed freedom of trade, and subsequently changed their ground and requested relief with respect to their sugar, cogent reasons might be found in the papers for their conduct. In consequence of the order in council of 1816, connected with several local circumstances, the inhabitants found it necessary to abandon the free port, and, as they had a right to do, to adopt the alternative which was embodid in the measure now before the house. The hon. gent. had mixed up the remission of duties with matters that were not connected with the question. He stated that slaves had been introduced into the Mauritius, and that it would be unjust to those who had opposed the slave trade if any favour were shown to men who supported it. This assertion must be decided by facts; and if the hon. gentleman would look at the papers, he would find that, for years, the trade had not existed: and that even prior to 1821, it was not carried on to any great extent. On this subject information would perhaps be hereafter given, to a much greater extent than the house was now in possession of. An armed ship certainly was stationed in Sechelles-straits, not, however, for the prevention of the slave trade in the Mauritius, but for the prevention of the general slave trade which might otherwise be carried on. The right hon gentleman then read a number of accounts, to show the insignificant quantity of sugar grown in the Mauritius with what was grown in different West India slands, and concluded by observing, that it would be an act of great injustice not to remove those duties, which had been imposed under an accidental, and, in fact, an ideal connexion of the Maurituis with the East Indies.

Mr. R. Ellis said, this question had been settled at the period of the peace; and if some special cause were not assigned for the proposed alteration, he conceived that the decision which had then been come to ought to be abided by. Formerly, it was represented to Government, that freedom of trade alone could benefit this colony. They were told that agriculture could not flourish there. But now, a different course was pursued, and those regulations which were intended for the benefit of the West Indies, where agriculture alone was pursued, were to be extended to the Mauritius. The hon. gentleman then referred to the papers before the house, and also to the correspondence contained in the reports of the African Society, for the purpose of showing that the slave-trade was carried on to a gr[redacted] in the Mauritius, and concluded by st[redacted] he would vote against the bill.

Mr. Huskisson said that in the last session it had been proposed to reduce the duty on Mauritius sugar; but the answer of the West India interest had then been, that the Mauritius enjoyed commercial advantages in which the West India islands did not participate. That plea was now taken away; the restrictions which had operated upon the West Indiaislands and which did not affect the Mauritius, had been removed; and both interests being now, as regarded commercial advantage, on a footing, a new ground of objection must be taken to the reduction of the Mauritius duty. Accordingly, the opposition at present made to this reduction was of a different description.—it was alleged that the colony of the Mauritius, contrary to the law of Great Britain, had carried on, and did still carry on, more or less, an illicit commerce in slaves. But this allegation—as it applied to any trade existing.—was not supported by fact. Prior to the year 1820, some smuggling of slaves had taken place; but according to the best evidence before the house, that practice continued no longer. Then the Mauritius must be judged, not according to what it had been, but according to what it was. If it was to be laid down as a general principle that every colony possessing slaves, and not entirely adapting itself to the wishes of Parliament with respect to them, was to be visited with a heavier tax, let that principle be sustained and applied universally. He decidedly supported the present measure, and thought that the West India interest was wrong in opposing it. The small quantity of sugar which came from the Mauritius.—say 12,000 hogsheads a-year—would make little difference to the West India produce; and even if it did not come direct into this country, its operation in the West Indies would be the same, for it must of necessity be sold somewhere, and would in fact go to meet their surplus supply (and reduce its price) in the general market of Europe. The right hon. gent. sat down by assuring those gentlemen who opposed the bill, that this must be the case so long as the West Indies produced more sugar than could be consumed in Great Britain; and as soon as our consumption began to be at all equal to the supply, this fact the West India merchants might be sure of—they would hold their present monopoly no longer.

Mr. Bright said that there was one fact which proved that a slave importation must be going on in the Mauritius. The colony since its capture, from being commercial, had become altogether agricultural. Within the last few years its production of sugar had increased from 4,000 hogsheads to 12,000. Now he should like to ask how that increase was possible, unless slaves, and in large number, had been imported?

Sir R. Farquhar said that the house would excuse him from pressing himself at that moment upon its notice, as he naturally felt a strong interest for a colony which he had himself so long administered. In 1810, he was present at the conquest of the Isle of Bourbon, to which he was accompanied by that meritorious officer, Captain Willoughby, who had distributed to the inhabitants proclamations which promised to them not only the advantages they enjoyed under France, but the pre-eminent advantages of the British colonies. The promises held out to them were free trade and the fullest protection to the produce of the island in the mother country. But how had those promises been fulfilled? They had lost the extensive trade they formerly possessed, and their produce met with no protection. The [redacted]uncil issued in the year 1816, giving to those colonies a free trade, was accompanied with so many restrictions, that, coupled with the prohibitions which were placed on it in the ports of France, it was a perfect nullity. The fluctuations which followed therefrom destroyed all the confidence of the merchants, and the inhabitants, being thus deprived of the benefits of free trade, naturally became agriculturists; and, owing to the hurricanes, which destroyed the other plantations of the country, cultivators of sugar. Bourbon, separated from the Mauritius, enjoyed all her ancient advantages, and the contrast of such prosperity with the depression of the Mauritius naturally tended to excite discontent and alienate the affections of the people of that country. The Mauritius now stood in the anomalous situation of being a sacrifice to European and Indian policy, whilst, on the ground of interest, expediency, and justice, it ought to enjoy all the advantages of the British sugar colonies. He contended that no slave trade existed at present in the Mauritius, and that the slave trade which had prevailed there some four or five years ago had been carried on by some renegadoes, who had lived by privateering during the war, and not by the respectable inhabitants of the colony. He showed, by reference to different abstracts of the slave population, that it had not increased during the conquest of the island, and inferred, from all these reasons, that there was no ground, save that of *sic volo, sic jubeo*, for opposing the proposition now suggested in favour of the trade of the Mauritius.

Mr. B. Gordon would have no objection to vote for the bill, if it were postponed till the year 1828, in order that it might be seen, in the interim how far it would affect West Indian interest.

Mr. Plummer moved, as an amendment, that the bill be read this day six months.

Mr. Hume trusted that the house, now that it was only doing an act of justice to the Mauritius, would also take into its consideration the state of the West India colonies.

Mr. W. Smith said, that this conviction was, that until the West Indies rendered their population independent of foreign import for subsistence, they would not be in that situation in which they ought to stand. As to the present bill, he was rather disposed to favour it, from a desire to try the effect of the encouragement of such a measure in an island situated like that which was the object of it.

Mr. Trant supported the bill, and the house divided, when the numbers were—

For the bill	37
Against it	14
Majority in favour of it . . .	—23

On the bringing up the report of the Colombian postage bill,

Mr. Hume inquired whether it was intended to provide by this bill for the free transmission of newspapers to the colonies, as was the case between England and Ireland.

Mr. Herries replied, that such a provision could not be properly introduced into this bill, but that it was the contemplation of Government to enter into an arrangement for the transmission of newspapers, if not quite free, at least at a very hight postage.

The other orders of the day were then disposed of, and the house adjourned at half-past one o'clock, till Monday next.

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BOMBAY GAZETTE
EXTRAORDINARY.

THURSDAY, 5TH JANUARY 1826.

We congratulate our readers on the following favourable Intelligence received via Madras:

"The Ships *Earl Kellie* Captain Edwards, *Pascoa* Captain Cathre, and *Hibernia* Captain Gilles, from Rangoon the 15th Instant have arrived in the Roads, bringing Intelligence of the most cheering description.

"From private accounts, it appears, that after the arrangements had been completed, Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, moved from Prome; and in the first instance attacked the Enemy's positions, which were found to be very formidable consisting of several Stockades well fortified and defended. The attacks were continued from the 1st to the 5th instant, when all the positions were carried in the most gallant manner, and the enemy dispersed with great slaughter—our loss consisting of five European Officers killed & some wounded; with more than 100 rank and file killed and wounded. The Madras Division under Brigadier General Cotton, is stated to have been very fully and successfully employed on two of the days—the 2d and 5th. The Army shortly afterwards proceeded for *Mea-dy* where it was expected they would be in a few days—leaving the 22d and 30th Regts. under *Major Evans* to take care of Prome.

"A Private Letter written before this Victory, states, that SIR A. CAMPBELL had broke ground with his whole Army, resting his march on the fortified positions of the Enemy—"He moves, says the writer, with 80 pieces of Cannon, and the Lord help the poor fellows against the shower of death this heavy arm will pour in upon them; he has promised his Army, that the British Flag shall fly upon the Walls of Umrapoora in January, and I have no doubt it will."

"A letter from Rangoon of the 12th states—Yesterday Royal Salutes were fired for the Victory near Prome—they had in all four days' work—of which the Madras Division had a very good share. It is said to have been most complete—the loss on our side is by no means such as might have been expected; that of the enemy very great—*Sir Archibald Campbell* has proceeded for *Meady* 50 miles from Prome—Our men appear to like Rangoon much; they get plenty of Rice almost for nothing, and enjoy themselves, and will probably regret quitting the Country, when the time may arrive: Alves is appointed Commissioner at *Bassein*. The River is crowded with Shipping, but daily proceeding down for Madras, to bring Troops and Supplies. Peace is again talked of, but I trust we shall first get to the Capital."

Another Letter of the same date observes—we are getting on famously—and are to march shortly it is understood for the Advance—the 1st Regiment, with the Bengal Body Guard 200 in number and 50 Bengal Horse Artillery, marching by land; the 32d going in Boats and carrying Provisions for the whole—The Army must by this time be at *Meady*—We are all delighted with the Climate and are in famous health.

"A Letter from *Pegue* towards the end of November states: every preparation is making for an advance upon the Enemy, who are waiting for us at a place called Shewegun—Parties of them make their appearance every day, but no interchange of shot has yet taken place; we cannot however move beyond our Picquets. The Siamese army consisting of about 20,000 men are floating about the Country between this and Martaban; we have sent a deputation to their Chiefs to ascertain their intentions, and to know whether we are to consider them Friends or Foes; if the former, they will be useful as they have 100 Elephants in their Camp, in addition to other means of transport; all which would give us a lift; and as Soldiers they would do to garrison posts—thus preserving our own force entire: In case they are friendly, it is said Martaban is to be ceded to them."

Supplement to the Madras Government Gazette, Dec. 26th, 1825.

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